

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
SY-05 MCT-01 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 PPT-01 /037 W  
-----030454Z 099532 /14  
R 022043Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0300

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3221

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR  
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION FOR U.S. BUSINESSMEN

REF: STATE 093250

1. ALTHOUGH TERRORIST ELEMENTS HAVE SUFFERED SERIOUS LOSSES IN LEADERSHIP, PERSONNEL, WEAPONS, FINANCES AND OTHER RESOURCES, THEY STILL REPRESENT A THREAT TO CIVIL STABILITY IN ARGENTINA. THEIR OBJECTIVES AND ATTITUDES CONCERNING MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE NOT CHANGED AND THEY RETAIN A CAPACITY FOR ISOLATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE.

2. LAST WEEK, AN ARGENTINE FACTORY FOREMAN OF CHRYSLER CORP. WAS SHOT 12 TIMES WHEN HE ANSWERED THE DOOR OF HIS RESIDENCE AT 5:30 A.M. THIS ACTION WAS ATTRIBUTED TO MONTONERO ELEMENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PROPAGANDIZING AT THE CHRYSLER INSTALLATION. MAJOR OIL COMPANY EXECUTIVES HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED THREATS FROM MONTONEROS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THREATS GENERALLY DIRECTED AT THE MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES. AUTO FIRMS AND DEALERSHIPS, BANKS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARE STILL TARGETS FOR WEEKLY BOMBING ATTEMPTS AND MOST RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF INDISCRIMINATE BOMBINGS DIRECTED AT PUBLIC PLACES.

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3. IN SPITE OF THIS, EMBASSY FEELS THAT AMERICAN EXECUTIVES CAN FUNCTION IN BUENOS AIRES PROVIDED THEY ARE PRUDENT IN THEIR ACTIONS, SELECT SUITABLE LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS, MAINTAIN A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE, VARY THEIR SCHEDULES OF ACTIVITIES AND REMAIN ALERT TO THE SECURITY NECESSITIES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. APPROXIMATELY 20 AMERICAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES OF AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE REMAINED

BUENOS AIRES THROUGH THE PERIOD WHEN THE MONTONERO AND ERP WERE AT FULL STRENGTH. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THIS NUMBER.

4. COMPANIES WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN LABOR DISPUTES SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO SENDING U.S. EXECUTIVES TO ARGENTINA AT THIS TIME AS THE DISPUTE COULD CREATE A HIGH TARGET PROFILE FOR THE EXECUTIVE AND MAKE HIM A POLITICALLY SUITABLE TARGET FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY. ADDITIONALLY, BUSINESSES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ASSIGNING EXECUTIVES TO LIVE IN AREAS OUTSIDE OF BUENOS AIRES WHICH HAVE BEEN TRADITIONAL SCENES OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND LABOR AGITATION SUCH AS CORDOBA, ROSARIO AND MOST RECENTLY LA PLATA.

5. THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS THE ADVICE THAT EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY GIVING U.S. COMPANIES CONCERNING LOCATING THEIR EXECUTIVES IN BUENOS AIRES.  
HILL

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009